

Claim 24. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 25. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 26. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprises the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of nucleic acid Nos. 79-402 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 27. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of nucleic acid Nos. 79-306 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 28. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 23, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

Claim 29. (New) The sandwich immunoassay of claim 28, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

Claim 30. (New) A sandwich immunoassay kit, which is specific for detecting mammalian γ -BNP derivatives, the mammalian γ -BNP derivatives having a carboxy terminus portion including α -BNP and having an amino terminus portion which does not include α -BNP, said sandwich immunoassay kit comprising:

(a) as a first component, a first antibody which is specifically reactive with the carboxy terminus portion of a mammalian γ -BNP derivative, and

(b) as a second component, a second antibody which is specifically reactive with the amino terminus portion of said mammalian γ -BNP derivative and which is not specifically reactive with the carboxy terminus portion of said mammalian γ -BNP derivative.

Claim 31. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein said mammalian γ -BNP derivative comprises the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-134 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 32. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein said second antibody is reacted with the amino acid sequence of amino acid Nos. 27-102 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 33. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

Claim 34. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 33, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

Claim 35. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 33, which further comprises a means for detecting the label.

Claim 36. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 37. (New) The sandwich immunoassay kit of claim 30, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

Claim 38. (New) A method for assaying for mammalian γ -BNP derivatives, the mammalian γ -BNP derivatives having a carboxy terminus portion including α -BNP and having an amino terminus portion which does not include α -BNP, comprising the steps of:

contacting a sample solution to be assayed with a first antibody, said first antibody specifically reacting with the carboxy terminus portion of a mammalian γ -BNP derivative, and contacting the sample solution with a second antibody, said second antibody specifically reacting with the amino terminus portion of said mammalian γ -BNP derivative and not reacting with the carboxy terminus portion of said mammalian γ -BNP derivative, and

measuring the amount of mammalian γ -BNP derivatives in the sample solution to which the first antibody and the second antibody is reacted.

Claim 39 (New) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is labeled with a detectable label or is immobilized.

Claim 40. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein said detectable label is a radioactive isotope, an enzyme, a fluorescent substance, a luminescent substance, or a particle.

Claim 41. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

Claim 42. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein at least one of said first antibody and said second antibody is a polyclonal antibody.